



South Dakota Department of the Military South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs



SD GUARD FIRST IN NATION TO RECEIVE NEW EQUIPMENT

The South Dakota Army National Guard is the first state to receive four new 120M motorized road graders. The 842nd Engineer Company of Spearfish, Belle Fourche and Sturgis is the first unit to receive the new equipment. The National Guard is issuing 300,000 new pieces of equipment to units across the nation in order to ensure soldiers have the best tools available to do their mission.

The need for new and improved equipment has been in the works at the National Guard Bureau level for the past six years, which became evident during natural disasters such as Hurricane Katrina in 2005 and the Greensburg, Kansas, tornado in 2007.

The SDARNG's current graders are about 30-years old and have exceeded their life-cycle expectancy, said Chief Warrant Officer Brian Maschino, field maintenance shop supervisor.

There are many new advantages to having the new grader said, Maschino. "All functions of the machine are computerized versus doing everything manually," said Maschino. "With the old grader, the operator was always moving his hands from the controls to the steering wheel. Now, the soldier can use the joy sticks, allowing more visibility on the task at hand."



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GUARD WINS NATIONAL FACILITY MANAGEMENT AWARD

The South Dakota Army National Guard's Construction and Facilities Management Office won the Fred Aron Award for Excellence in Facilities Programs for being the best-performing facilities program in the nation.

Col. Kimberly O'Keefe, Army National Guard installations division chief, presented the 2012 award to Col. Kit Cline, SDARNG construction and facilities management officer, at the annual CFMO Conference in Atlanta, GA, in April.

South Dakota out-performed the other 49 states and four U.S. territories in the nine performance areas used to tabulate the winning score. These areas include: military construction program execution, financial management, budget estimate and energy management, to list a few.

There are three different categories of planning that go into consideration while maintaining military installations: Master Planning is a 25-year vision, Future Years Defense Plan is a five-year process and Military Construction design and construction is a four- to five-year process.

"The biggest challenge is planning and programming to meet the changing needs of the Army National Guard," said Cline. "The compilation of the planning leads to the operation and maintenance of facilities for the next 100 years or more."

The CMFO has shifted focus from the Joint Force Headquarters and Training Center facilities on Camp Rapid to constructing a much-needed readiness center in Watertown.

"As the National Guard transitioned from a strategic reserve to an operational force, we've got more personnel and new equipment that's bigger, stronger and faster and it doesn't fit in existing buildings," said Cline. "The older buildings don't meet today's needs; which leads to the need for military construction to build new armories."

Many of South Dakota's 29 Army Guard facilities are becoming obsolete. Fourteen armories are more than 40 years old, and 10 are more than 50 years old.

Winning the Fred Aron Award hasn't put the CFMO at ease. The office continues to strive for excellence as new projects arise across the state.



AIR GUARD RECEIVES NATIONAL EXCELLENCE IN DIVERSITY AWARD

The South Dakota Air National Guard has been announced as the recipient of the 2011 National Guard Bureau Excellence in Diversity Award. The award is given to just one Air National Guard wing each year by NGB to recognize a unit's outstanding promotion of programs that support a diverse workforce.

The award was presented to Col. Russ Walz, 114th Fighter Wing commander, along with other representatives of the state during the 2012 National Guard Joint Diversity Conference held in Reno, Nev., May 24.

This is the first time a National Guard unit from the state of South Dakota has won the award. "We're very proud of this award" said Walz. "It represents the commitment at all levels of the organization to enhance mission effectiveness by building an inclusive and diverse professional workforce."

As the National Guard experiences demographic shifts, evolving military requirements and increasing budgetary constraints, diversity has become a growing challenge within the National Guard. Understanding and integrating diversity into the mission through leadership training and workshops, the South Dakota Air National Guard has offered their members the tools necessary to stay a vital and diverse workforce.

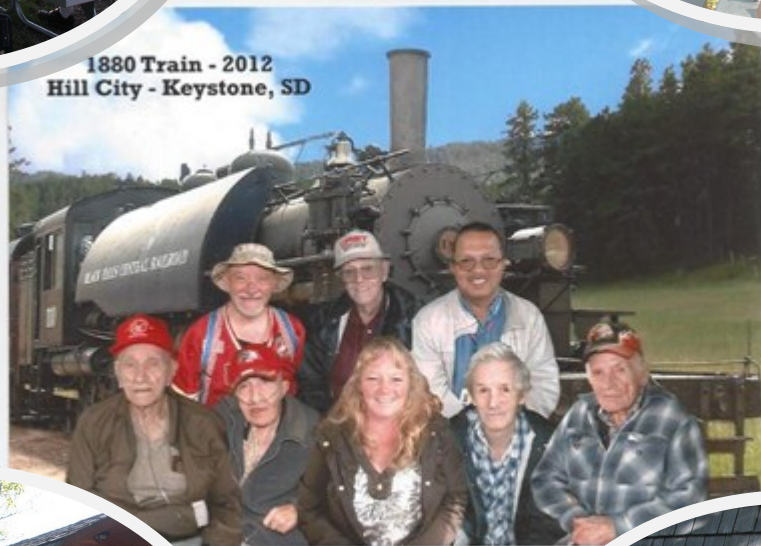
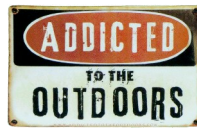
"Embracing diversity is clearly one of our top priorities," said Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, adjutant general of the SDNG. "The 114th Fighter Wing's selection as the top wing in the nation is a testament to their years of effort focusing on how diversity enhances our organization."

The award was announced by Phyllis Brantley, chief of the Diversity and Special Emphasis programs at NGB and was presented by Gen. Craig R. McKinley, chief of the National Guard Bureau.



NO TIME TO SPARE

There was no rest in store for the residents at the Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home this month. Along with their normal shopping trips, they attended Mother's Day brunches/lunches, a pheasant feed, a music concert at the Mueller Center, a history reenactment, ball-room dancing, the Black Hills National Cemetery and a Memorial Day program. In addition, they camped at Custer State Park, fished on Angostura Reservoir, took a ride on the 1880 train and traveled over to Deadwood. Abe Lemmons said it best, "the trouble with retirement is that you never get a day off!"



2012 SIOUX FALLS AIR SHOW

Spectators will have the opportunity to enjoy the twists and turns of the high-flying planes at the 2012 Sioux Falls Air Show, "Power on the Prairie," July 21-22. In addition to the fun in the sky, there will be flight simulators, a WWII camp, the South Dakota Army National Guard equipment display, veterans organizations booth, a kid zone with at least 15 inflatable play structures and all those wonderful food vendors.

Gates open and shuttles begin operating at 8:30 am. Parking information and routes will be posted on the web site. The agenda for the air show can be found at:

<http://www.siouxfallsairshow.com/sponsors.php>.

There is no charge for the Sioux Falls Airshow thanks to the generous support of sponsors. A complete list of the sponsors can be found at:

<http://www.siouxfallsairshow.com/sponsors.php>.

Recruiters from all branches of the military will have a presence at the Air Show.



FREE ADMISSION
SIOUX FALLS
AIRSHOW
2012

THE BLUE ANGELS!
F-22 Raptor Demo | F-18 Super Hornet Demo
P51 Red Tail and P51 Gunfighter Solos
Air Force Academy Wings of Blue Parachute Team
AV8 Harrier Demo | SD Air National Guard F-16s
Aviatrix Jacqueline B! | Dick Schultz Airshows
Vanguard Squadron | Heritage Flight

JULY 21-22
POWER ON THE PRAIRIE

Upcoming Events

Jun. 7-10—VFW State Convention—Brookings
Jun. 7—VABHHCS Stand Down—Pine Ridge
Jun. 8—SDNG 150-Year Anniversary Open House—11:00 am to 3:00 pm (Camp Rapid)
Jun. 9—SDNG Museum Anniversary Party—10:00 am—4:00 pm (301 E. Dakota) - Pierre
Jun. 9—Marine Corps League Department of SD Convention—Pierre
Jun. 9-23—Golden Coyote Annual Training Exercise
Jun. 10-12—Dare to Dream Conference—Spearfish Holiday Inn
Jun. 13—Veterans Enrollment and Information Fair 1:00 pm—5:00 pm—Cheyenne River Sioux Tribal
Veterans Service Office (448 West Frontier—Eagle Butte)
Jun. 14—Flag Day
Jun. 14-17—American Legion State Convention—Watertown
Jun. 21—Rapid City Homeless Connect
Jun. 23-24—Thirty-Day Yellow Ribbon Event for the 200th EN/139th BSB—Sheraton—Sioux Falls
July 4—Independence Day
July 11—SD Veterans Council Meeting—American Legion Post 15—Sioux Falls—10:30 am
July 21-22—Sioux Falls Air Show
Jul. 21—SD Convoy of Hope Stand Down—Rapid City
July 28-29—Thirty-Day Yellow Ribbon Event for the 189th AVN—Rapid City
Aug. 15—Veterans Job Fair—Sioux Falls VFW (3601 S. Minnesota Avenue) 10:00 am—2:00 pm
Aug. 27-29—VSO Annual Benefits School—Pierre
Aug. 27—VABHHCS Stand Down—Rapid City
Aug. 29—Standing Rock Sioux Tribe Stand Down—McLaughlin
Aug. 30—Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Stand Down—Eagle Butte
Aug. 30– Sept. 3—SD State Fair—Huron (Veterans Day—Aug. 30)
Sept. 11—Stand Down—Wagner National Guard Armory—610 E. SD HWY 46 (10:00 am—2:00 pm)
Sept. 25—Stand Down—Aberdeen Civic Center—203 S. Washington (2:00 pm—7:00 pm)
Sept. 25 Pierre Homeless Connect

Audry Ricketts, Public Information Officer
South Dakota Department of the Military
South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs
Soldiers and Sailors Building
425 E Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501
Phone: 605-773-8242
E-mail address: audry.ricketts@state.sd.us
Web site: <http://mva.sd.gov>

